

SOLID INSIDE WASTE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE



Fall 2001

Volume 28

Recycling. It's Good for the Bottle. It's Good for the Can

The California Department of Conservation has created a campaign which utilizes television, print, and radio advertisements, along with billboards, to motivate Californians to recycle more. Watch and listen for these ads in your area. To obtain these ads free of charge, contact Gene Harm at (916) 322-7683 or gharm@conserv.ca.gov. Information on the State's beverage container recycling program is available at www.bottlesandcans.com, or by calling 1-800-RECYCLE.

Last year we threw away 6.3 billion aluminum, glass, and plastic beverage containers - enough to circle the Earth seven times. But if that doesn't catch your attention, consider this: those trashed containers were worth approximately \$160 million at the local recycling center.

Since the earliest Earth Day movements of three decades ago, California has been a national leader in recycling. Throughout the 1990s, we recycled an average of 77 percent of the bottles and cans purchased in California. But in 2000, nearly 40 percent of the 16.5 billion beverage containers purchased in California were trashed. Just think of all that recycled material that has been wasted instead of being used to make a variety of products.

Aluminum cans can end up back on the grocery store shelf within 90 days, but they can also be used in

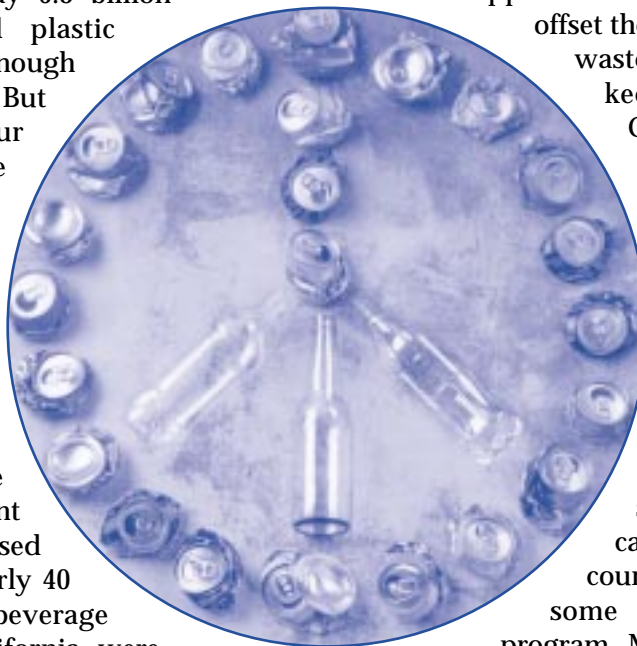
aluminum bats, shingles for new homes, park benches, and playground equipment. Glass bottles can be used in home construction for fiberglass insulation, glass tiles, and countertops. The benefits of recycling plastic are also seen in the creation of decking materials, picnic benches, signposts, garden hoses, and even kayaks.

Additionally, the California Redemption Value (CRV) helps local cities and counties by generating income from curbside recycling programs. In 2000, approximately \$64.4 million was used to offset the cost of recycling programs and waste collections services, thereby keeping customer bills lower. Otherwise, tossing beverage containers into the trash deprives our local communities of revenue that can offset customer costs.

Beverage container redemption centers are located in many grocery store parking lots. A center is located within a mile of most stores selling CRV bottles and cans. More than 500 cities and counties throughout California have some kind of curbside collection program. Many parks, beaches, and other public venues also have recycling bins.

So as you are out and about this fall, remember to recycle. It's good for the bottle. It's good for the can.

It's good for California.



Welcome to *Inside Solid Waste*

If you have an innovative program or information that would be of interest to others in Los Angeles County, or an issue or concern you would like addressed, please submit an article to *Inside Solid Waste*. Articles should be submitted to the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force at P.O. Box 1460, Alhambra, CA 91802-1460, Attention: **Emily Puga-Aragon** or at earagon@dpw.co.la.ca.us. For more information, call (626) 458-3579, Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. *Inside Solid Waste* is available on line at www.888CleanLA.com. Check it out!

RECYCLING MADE EASIER

Recycling locations are now a mouse click away at the improved SmartBusiness Recycling web site (www.businessrecycling.com). The site has an up-to-date look and has been greatly enhanced. The web site now features a "Recycler Locator" that lets you find recycling companies that accept the materials you want to recycle. Currently there are approximately 375 recycling companies in the 'look-up' database. Recyclers can be sorted by material type, city, or zip code, and the list includes the company's address and phone number. All you need to do is point and click. Let your computer do the rest.

Also featured on the www.businessrecycling.com site are business recycling tip sheets, brochures, and past

newsletters from the SmartBusiness Recycling Program. The web site has information about scheduling a FREE site visit with one of our Business Recycling Consultants who service the unincorporated areas of the County. You'll also find links to other helpful sites like the Los Angeles County Materials Exchange Program (LACoMAX), which is an Internet-based Countywide materials exchange program featuring listings of available and wanted materials that would otherwise be discarded. There is no charge to list materials on the site. So check out www.businessrecycling.com and learn how your community's businesses can save money while improving the planet!

Special Education Recycling Program

Students at Claremont High School have embarked on a program that helps keep their school campus and community beautiful. The Beverage Container Recycling Program began in September 1999, and has helped divert more than one ton of recyclable material while increasing school awareness of recycling issues. But the best part of the story is that the program was designed and is run by students who have severe orthopedic disabilities.

When the Beverage Container Recycling Program was established, it required the assistance of faculty members to provide direction and supervision. Now, the students have appointed their own supervisors within their class who make sure the tasks are completed. Although each student is limited in what they can do physically, they all take pride in their responsibilities and the fact that they are improving the quality of their environment.

Students are also learning the monetary value of their recycling. Aluminum cans and plastic bottles are separated to show the different value of each type of material. The money earned has allowed the students to take trips to Disneyland and participate in other extra-curricular activities.

The City of Claremont has provided assistance with the development of this program over the past two years. When the students were in search of extra funding for



their activities, the City offered to help formulate a program that would not only increase the school's budget, but also help the community. The recycling program has definitely achieved great benefits for both the City and the students. Students understand the rewards that recycling can give them and look forward each day to doing their part. This program is an inspiration because it gives these students the opportunity to experience teamwork, help their school, serve as stewards of the environment and role models for their peers, and have responsibility for completing a task.

Recycling Facts

Since California's beverage container recycling program began in 1987, Californians have given additional life to more than 120 billion cans and bottles - enough to circle the Earth more than 375 times. Here are a few interesting facts about container recycling:

- In 2000, an average of 27.7 million beverage containers were recycled each day in California; 1,155,00 every hour; 19,000 every minute.
- The average glass bottle manufactured in California contains 38 percent recycled glass.
- The average household generated 345 pounds of plastic bottles in the year 2000.
- One recycled aluminum can saves enough energy to operate a TV for 2.5 hours, or a laptop computer for 11 hours.
- Aluminum cans can be recycled using less than 5 percent of the energy used to make the original product.

There are more than 2,000 recycling centers in California. For a center location, call 1-800-RECYCLE.

TASK FORCE MEETINGS

Meetings will be held at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Headquarters, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra.

November 15
December 20

All meetings are scheduled for 1:00 p.m. in Conference Room B

For information
call Elizabeth
Mendez at (626)
458-3565. M -Th,
7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

What's Up?

COLLECTION EVENTS are open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. For further information, residents are invited to call the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, at **1(888)CLEAN-LA (253-2652)**. For information about **Hazmobile** events call **1(800)98-TOXIC (988-6942)**

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|----------------|--|
| October 27 | Beverly Hills and W. Hollywood - Beverly Hills City Streets
Foothill Rd. between Alden Dr. and West 3rd. St. |
| October 27-28 | Woodland Hills - Pierce College
Parking Lot #4, Enter from Mason St. at Victory Blvd. |
| November 3 | Bellflower - Simm's Park
Clark Ave. and Oak St. |
| November 3 | Topanga - Topanga Elementary School
141 North Topanga Canyon Rd. |
| November 3 | Watts - Alain LeRoy Locke High School
Avalon Blvd. parking lot, East of school
Enter from Avalon Blvd. |
| November 10 | La Mirada - La Mirada Regional Park
Tennis Court/Swimming Pool
Parking Lot, Adelfa Dr. |
| November 17-18 | Elysian Park - Dodger Stadium
Advance Ticket Sales Parking Lot
Stadium Way at Lilac Terrace |
| November 17 | Monterey Park - East Los Angeles
Community College, Stadium Parking Lot
Bleakwood Ave. and Floral Dr. |
| December 1-2 | Granada Hills - John F. Kennedy
High School, North Parking Lot
Gothic Ave. & Simonds Street |
| December 1 | Malibu - Malibu Civic Center
23519 West Civic Center Way
Rear Parking Lot |
| December 8 | Lomita - Lomita City Hall Parking Lot
24300 Narbonne Ave. |
| December 15 | La Verne - Brackett Field
Fairplex Dr. & West McKinley Ave. |

DRAFT REPORT RELEASED

On September 25, the Waste Board released a draft report entitled “A Comprehensive Analysis of the Integrated Waste Management Act Diversion Rate Measurement System” pursuant to Senate Bill 2202 which requires an evaluation of the State’s Disposal Reporting System (DRS) and a report of its findings to the Legislature.

In order to prepare the report, the Waste Board convened working groups. The groups consisted of representatives from environmental groups, consultants, waste and recycling industries, and jurisdictions, who evaluated the DRS, the methodology used to adjust jurisdictions’ base-year quantities, and alternatives to the existing system.

The groups ultimately recommended that the Waste Board:

- Recognize the potential for significant errors in the DRS;
- Impose various requirements to improve DRS accuracy, including daily surveys, scales, and standards for collecting waste origin and disposal tonnage information;
- Place more emphasis on diversion programs and less on mathematical accounting;
- Implement and enhance a variety of market development options;
- Encourage the State Legislature to require schools to meet diversion requirements equivalent to AB 939.

Moreover, the working groups also requested the Waste Board to study several issues due to their complexity. These issues include:

- Developing a “menu” of diversion programs that jurisdictions could implement in place of diversion rate measurement (i.e., a “programmatic” approach to compliance); and
- Influencing the Legislature to remove the ten percent diversion credit cap for conversion technologies (i.e., non-burn transformation) to encourage their development as alternatives to landfilling and incineration.

The draft report shows a good faith effort to convey the essence of the working groups’ discussions, findings, and recommendations, and indicates the support of Waste Board staff on many of the recommendations. On the other hand, the report should avoid replacing one form of “bean counting” (disposal tonnages) with another (diversion tonnages).

It is imperative that local governments review the draft and forward any comments to the Waste Board. It is anticipated that the Legislature will utilize the report to formulate and enact legislation in the upcoming calendar year to address the findings and recommendations.

For a copy of the draft SB 2202 report, please contact Lorraine Van Kekerix of the Waste Board at (916) 341-6209.

BOARD REVIEWS ADC POLICIES

Under current State law, alternative daily cover (ADC) and other waste materials beneficially used at landfills constitute diversion through recycling. State regulations require landfill operators to report the amount of each type of ADC used for each jurisdiction. The Waste Board recently considered several issues related to ADC, and specifically addressed reporting issues at the four permitted inert waste landfills in the San Gabriel Valley. Because of discrepancies in quantifying and reporting amounts of ADC by landfill operators, the Waste Board, at its July 26, 2001, meeting, took the following actions:

- 1) disallowed any ADC credit at the inert waste landfills, directed the operators to revise their reported tonnages to show ADC for the 2000 calendar year as disposal, and directed its staff to add the previously reported ADC to the disposal tonnage of each affected jurisdiction
- 2) directed its staff to convene a working group to review and address other issues related to ADC and the standardization of forms and reporting systems.

The first action will reduce the previously calculated diversion rates for the 2000 calendar year for jurisdictions using the four inert waste landfills.

As a follow-up to the second action, on September 25, 2001, Waste Board staff conducted a public workshop for interested parties regarding ADC. Because of lack of clear direction on the review of its regulations, policies, and procedures relating to ADC, Waste Board staff often went off on tangential issues or issues outside the Waste Board’s authority, including whether or not any diversion credit ought to be provided for ADC. As a result, much of the meeting focused on the efficacy, as public policy, of Public Resources Code Section 41781.3, otherwise known as AB 1647 (Bustamante). AB 1647 was enacted in 1996 and provided that the use of ADC “shall constitute diversion through recycling and shall not be considered disposal.”

Interested parties are encouraged to monitor the activities of the ADC working group (yet to be convened by the Waste Board) to ensure that the diversion credit for ADC continues to be allowed under State law.

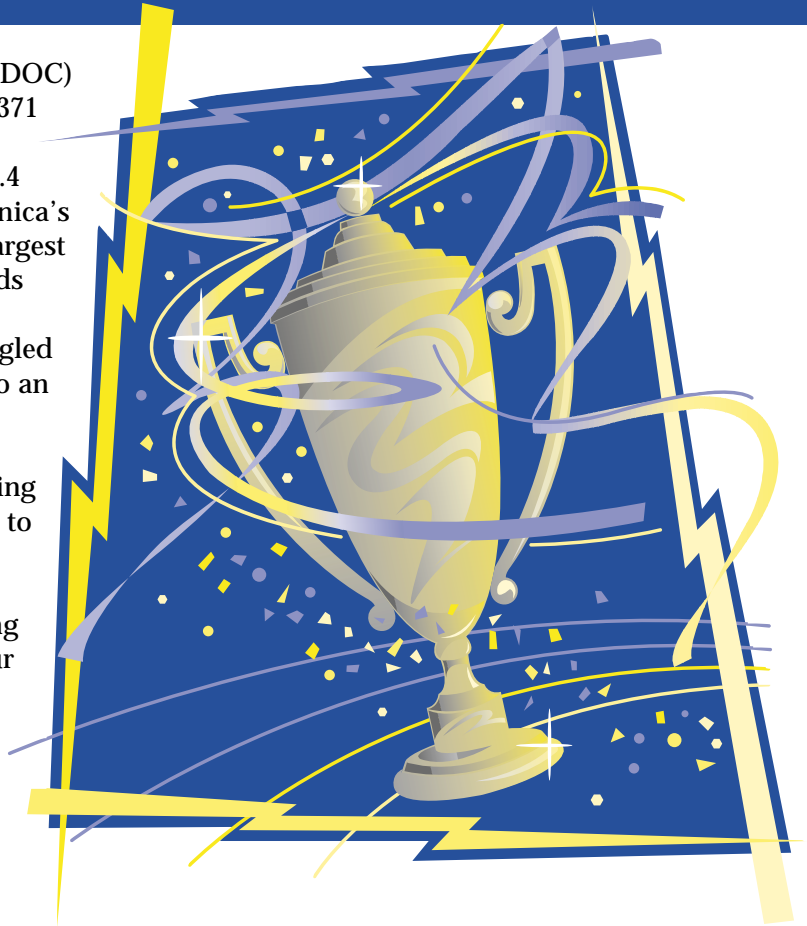
SANTA MONICA RECEIVES STATE CONSERVATION AWARD

The California Department of Conservation (DOC) has awarded the City of Santa Monica \$139,371 for beverage container recycling. There were 26 applications requesting more than \$1.4 million for this competitive grant. Santa Monica's proposal was one of 11 awarded, and it was the largest single grant of the \$500,000 available in grant funds.

The grant will be used to expand the commingled recycling program by providing 300-gallon bins to an additional 560 multi-family dwellings.

The City has ensured its commitment to recycling expansion by purchasing two new recycle trucks to be added to the fleet in the winter of 2002.

The DOC grant is intended to ensure that recycling is available to those who live in the more than four million multi-family housing units in the State.



Trash Trucks to Pollute Less with New Fuel

The City of Claremont's fleet of refuse collection trucks are creating less air pollution now that they are being fueled by Biodiesel, a diesel fuel made with 20 percent vegetable oil.



Recognized by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) as an alternative fuel, Biodiesel-powered engines produce 23 percent less carbon monoxide, 26 percent fewer hydrocarbons, and 90 percent less particulate matter.

Another environmental benefit of Biodiesel fuel is the fact that it comes from an easily renewable source; soybeans. It can also be produced using recycled frying oil collected from restaurants.

Although the EPA and CARB have recognized Biodiesel as an alternative fuel, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) has yet to classify the use of Biodiesel fuel as acceptable compliance with its low-emission/alternative fuel requirements for public agency vehicle fleets. City officials plan to lobby the AQMD to grant alternative fuel status to Biodiesel.

NEWS FROM BURBANK

The City of Burbank's Recycle Center has added a few new attractions - big, little, and medium size - to its world of recycling. One of them includes the upgrading of its materials recovery facility (MRF) with \$1.7 million of the latest in MRF equipment, which the City's contractor, BLT Recycling, installed. The others include:

❖ Household battery recycling. All varieties, from alkaline to zinc, including the commonly known D, C, AA, AAA, and 9-volt are accepted at the Recycle Center. The battery recycling program is handled by "Battery Recycler" at (562)434-4502 in Long Beach, and/or Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC) at 1(800)8-BATTERY.

❖ Worm bins (and workshops) are now available at no charge to Burbank residents. There are almost 4,000 composters at work in Burbank backyards, and some of those resident gardeners have been anxious to increase their worm population. Other possible

worm enthusiasts include teachers and apartment dwellers without backyards.

❖ Hearing aids have joined the recycled eyeglasses that are collected for the Lions Recycle for Sight program at the Recycle Center. The Lions clean and repair eyeglasses and hearing aids for third world countries. The diversion in weight is small (What do 350 pairs of eyeglasses weigh?), but just the thought of giving a second life to anything and everything champions the cause.



Burbank was also recently notified that it won first place in the Public Education Category of the Keep California Beautiful Outstanding Environmental Achievement Awards 2001.

Congratulations to the City of Burbank on receiving the Keep California Beautiful Achievement Award and for being innovative in managing their recycling and solid waste issues!

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